

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08055 111257Z

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 H-02 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 VO-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 EUR-12 /068 W

----- 130289

R 111016Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4375

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPACREPPHIL

CINCPACREP GUAM

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, RP, UN

SUBJECT: UNHOR ACTIVITIES RE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN
PHILIPPINES

1. REPS SCHLATTER AND SAMPAKUMAR CALLED AT EMBASSY
JUNE 10, ACCOMPANIED BY UNDP RES REP BERGSTROM. TEAM THEN
VISITED SUBIC FOR TOUR REFUGEE FACILITIES AND DISCUSSION
WITH CINCPACREPPHIL (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL). BASED ON TALK
WITH GROUP AND TELEPHONE DEBRIEF OF BERGSTROM TO ADCM
JUNE 11, FOLLOWING IS A CURRENT SUMMARY OF UNHCR VIEWS
AND ACTIVITIES.

.2. WHILE AT SUBIC, AT REQUEST OF 31 REFUGEES ON BOARD A TRAWLER
NOW IN ANCHORAGE SUBIC BAY UNHCR TEAM BOARDED VESSEL, MET
WITH REFUGEES AND UNHCR GENEVA HAS BEEN SENT CABLE REPORTING
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. BERGSTROM IS NOT SANGUINE THAT HE
OR UNHCR REPS WILL GET ANYWHERE WITH APPROACHES TO GOP
TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS GROUP, BUT HE IS PRE-
PARED TO PERSIST IN THE EFFORT.

3. RE REFUGEES MANILA, BERGSTROM STATES UNHCR REPS
HAVE SENT SEVERAL CABLES TO GENEVA REQUESTING FINANCIAL
AUTHORITY TO ASSIST REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY STUDENTS.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 08055 111257Z

SO FAR GENEVA HAS NOT REPLIED. IN MEANTIME, WHILE GOP

DEP. FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS INDICATED INFORMALLY TO UNDP AND UNHCR THAT REFUGEES MAY REMAIN IN PHILIPPINES, DFA HAS PASSED BUCK ON ISSUE OF EMPLOYMENT TO COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION REYES.

4. COMMENT: OVERALL ATTITUDE OF UNHCR REPS IS ONE OF INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST, BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET FOUND ANY BREACHES IN FILIPINO RESISTANCE TO TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEES NOR HAVE THEY HAD ANY PROGRESS TO REPORT ON POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ENCOURAGING UNHCR REPS TO KEEP CLOSE TOUCH WITH REFUGEES, TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GOP, AND TO PRESS THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE, ESPECIALLY OF REFUGEES WHO HAVE STATED PREFERENCE, E.G, FOR FRANCE, BUT WE SHARE THEIR PESSIMISM ABOUT THE OUTCOME. UNHCR REPS WOULD OF COURSE PREFER WE TOOK THESE REFUGEES IN NORMAL FLOW TO GUAM TO RELIEVE THEM OF PROBLEM. WE PREFER TO KEEP THE PROBLEM WHERE IT IS FOR THE TIME BEING.
PURNELL

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Message Attributes

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